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sideration of the international auxiliary language problem is being done by the Committee on an International Auxiliary Language of the International Research Council, headed by Dr. F. G. Cottrell. Much progress is being made as those who attended the symposium on the subject at the Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science know.

#### INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AT ROME

THE International Research Council, organized in 1919 at Brussels, will meet again in that city on July 18 of this year. Meanwhile the International Astronomical Union and the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union will meet at Rome on May 2. The United States will be represented at the astronomical meeting by Professor Frank Schlesinger, Yale University, chairman of the American delegates; Dr. R. G. Aitken, Lick Observatory; Dr. C. E. St. John and Professor F. H. Seares, Mount Wilson Observatory; Dr. H. D. Curtis, director of the Allegheny Observatory; Dr. O. J. Lee, Yerkes Observatory; Professor H. N. Russell, Princeton University; Professor John A. Miller, Swarthmore College; Professor Edward Kasner, Columbia University; Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, and Dr. Frank B. Littell, of the U. S. Naval Observatory.

Dr. William Bowie, chief of the division of geodesy of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, will head the American delegation to the geodetic and geophysical meeting, and will be delegate to the section on geodesy. Other delegates are: Section on terrestrial magnetism, Dr. L. A. Bauer, director of the department of terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; section of seismology, Professor H. F. Reid, of the Johns Hopkins University; section on meteorology, Dr. H. H. Kim-

ball, of the U. S. Weather Bureau; section on physical oceanography, Dr. G. W. Littlehales, of the hydrographic office of the Navy Department; section on volcanology, Dr. H. S. Washington, of the geophysical laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

American astronomers met in Washington just before the American astronomical delegates left for Rome and considered many of the subjects that will come up for international consideration.

One of the questions on the agenda of the Rome meeting that will interest and affect the ordinary person most directly is the reform of the calendar. The American section did not instruct its delegates on this matter but it is expected that some action will be taken by the International Astronomical Union meeting. Much of the discussion by astronomers at Rome will relate to the unification of nomenclature and plans for international cooperation in various projects. A new system of spectrum classification of stars will be recommended by the American delegates, and plans for the determination of terrestrial longitude by wireless telegraphy will be laid. Another important question that will arise is the variation of latitude, or the "wabbling" of the earth. About twenty years ago, the Ukiah, Calif., Observatory was established as one of five latitude stations, and valuable data have been obtained. But the astronomers realize the need of further knowledge of the factors that affect the accuracy of their measurements and will urge additional stations.

Each one of the sections of the International Geodetic and Geophysical Unions has full agendas. The scientists of Europe will discuss the triangulation nets of many of their countries and Africa, as well as the establishment of a fundamental longitude net of the world. Euro-

peans will have as an example of international cooperation the United States, Mexico and Canada which are using the same triangulation net with effective results. Isostasy, or the distribution of densities of the earth, will also be considered. Volcanologists will lay plans for getting to the eruptions in the least possible time and they will also arrange to chart the volcanoes that discharge their lava into the sea instead of the air and for this reason are seldom discovered. They will consider tapping the volcanic energy of the earth by holes leading down into the hot portions, as is now being done in Italy. Equally interesting questions will be discussed by those who study the earth's magnetism, earthquakes and the oceans.

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry meets at Lyons, France, from June 28 to July 2. From August 10 to 19 there will be an International Geological Congress at Brussels, Belgium. In June there will be an International Chemical Conference at Utrecht, Holland, to which distinguished chemists of all nations, including Germany and Russia, have been invited. Professor W. A. Noyes is acting as chairman of the committee to select American members of the conference, the other members being Professor Stieglitz, Professor Lewis and Dr. Whitney.

#### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Benjamin Moore, Whitney professor of biochemistry at the University of Oxford and formerly professor of physiology at Yale University; of Augustus D. Waller, professor of physiology at the University of London; of Theodor Liebisch, professor of mineralogy at Berlin; and of Camille Jordan, professor of mathematics at Paris and editor of the *Journal de Mathématiques*.

SIR ERNEST RUTHERFORD, Cavenish professor of experimental physics in the University of Cambridge, has been named as president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for the annual meeting to be held at Liverpool next year.—Sir Frank Dyson was elected president of the British Optical Society at the annual meeting. At the same meeting Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. M. von Rohr, of Messrs. Carl Zeiss, Jena, were elected honorary fellows of the society.

PROFESSOR ALBERT EINSTEIN, of the University of Berlin, has delivered a series of four lectures in Paris on the "Theory of Relativity," under the auspices of the Collège de France.—After Vilhjalmur Stefansson had delivered a lecture before the National Geographic Society, the society made the announcement that its Research Council had awarded him the Grant Squires prize "in recognition of the unique interest and importance of his book, 'The Friendly Arctic,' the outstanding geographic publication of 1921."

ESTABLISHMENT of fellowships in medicine to increase the supply of qualified teachers and investigators is announced by the National Research Council. The fellowships, supported by appropriations of the Rockefeller Foundation and the General Education Board, will be open to Americans or Canadians of either sex holding or qualified to hold degrees of doctor of medicine or doctor of philosophy from approved universities. The appropriations are \$100,000 a year for five years. Successful candidates, to be known as fellows in medicine of the National Research Council, will be at liberty to choose the institutions or universities in which they will work. The fellowships in medicine are similar to the fellowships in physics and chemistry established under the same auspices.